

THE MIAMI SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

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Golf was originally started in Miami with a six-hole course around the Royal Palm Hotel in 1897. In 1898 Henry Flagler opened the Miami Country Club along NW 11th Street and 12th Ave along the Miami River. The course was a nine-hole course and was accessible from the Royal Palm Hotel by boat or a two-hour journey along a dirt road.

James Bright and Glenn H. Curtiss became partners in land development and the Curtiss-Bright Ranch Company was incorporated January 27, 1921. On December 30, 1922, the corporate name was changed to the Curtiss-Bright Company.

In 1921 the Curtiss-Bright Ranch Company was developing the City of Hialeah. Mr. Curtiss envisioned an adjacent community to the west of the Miami Canal as a planned residential community. The plan for the community included wide boulevards, large single-family residential lots, with stringent building and zoning laws and a golf course. The Curtiss-Bright Ranch Company began clearing the land in Country Club Estates, (City of Miami Springs) around 1922.

A group of golfers known as the *Miami Coconuts* were without a course to play on. The *Miami Coconuts* did not have a clubhouse, held no regular meetings and in fact they only owned golf clubs. The group would meet in downtown Miami at the Martinique Hotel. It was in the hotel that H. B. "Dickie" Martin started the *Miami Coconuts* and its membership consisted of almost every golf-minded resident of the City of Miami.

The group was a who's who of the Miami scene at the time, consisted of:

Roddey Burdine (son of William Burdines founder of Burdines department Store)

Tub Palmer,

Newt Lummus, Jr.,

Carl Fisher,

Frank B. Shutts,

Everest Sewell,

Morrie Orr,

John Carlisle,

S. P. Robineau,

E. C. Romfh,

Fred D. Breit,

J. E. Junkin,

Bill Urmey,

Rowland Saunders,

Webb Jay,

Paul Scott,

Frank Pepper,

Oscar Daniels,

Bill Burnett,

*T. E. Price,
A. J. Cleary,
Walter Kohlhep,
Sam Boyer,
and about 80 other residents and winter residents.*

*Byron Cisco,
E. E. Dammers,
H. B. Martin,
(editor of the "Southern Golfer")*

At the meeting in the spring of 1922 the *Miami Coconuts* decided that if Miami was to continue to grow as a resort center, facilities should be provided for the entertainment of thousands of guests who come to Miami.

A committee consisting of; Roddy Burdine, who later become a partner in the Curtiss-Bright Company, Joe Chaille, Bill Harrison, J. E. Junkin, Jr. and Sam Boyer was appointed to canvass the area in search of a parcel of land for the proposed venture.

The committee contacted Glenn H. Curtiss and James H. Bright who through the Curtiss-Bright Ranch Company had a large amount of land holdings northwest of the City of Miami. The Curtiss-Bright Ranch Company offered to supply the necessary land provided that the *Miami Coconuts* obtained financing for the construction of the golf course. According to published news accounts the *Miami Coconuts* incorporated themselves as *The Miami-Hialeah Golf Club* in July 1922.

The Corporation floated bonds to pay for the construction of the course. A total of \$44,000 in bonds was raised from the club members. Mr. Curtiss had originally required the club to come up with \$75,000 in its initial offering, but he later agreed to match the amount raised.

The construction by the Curtiss-Bright Company on the golf course began in 1922 and continued until the fall of 1923. The only interruption was from the floodwaters of the nearby canal. Before the construction was completed it became apparent that the money raised was not sufficient. The club began to call on Mr. Curtiss for money. Mr. Curtiss' first direct advance was on November 16, 1922 in the amount of \$15,000. Mr. Curtiss had also endorsed the clubs notes to various area banks for a total of approximately \$9,000.

The Miami Springs Golf Course was designed by Tub Palmer, a *Miami Coconuts* charter member. The golf course was constructed at a cost of approximately \$101,000. The expense of maintaining the course was overwhelming for the *Miami-Hialeah Golf Club* members. The City of Miami Purchased the *Miami Hialeah Golf Club* from Curtiss-Bright Company including, the first nine holes and an additional 90 acres for the back nine for the sum of \$75,000 and an additional \$15,000 for the purchase of the Parkway, a total of \$90,000 as

recorded in Deed Book 365 page 223 on September 11, 1923. (*Note: An article in the Miami Daily News, Sunday, July 6, 1952 stating that Glenn Curtiss donated the land and an article in the Miami Daily News, June 1, 1941 stating Curtiss sold the land to City of Miami for \$1, has caused confusion concerning history of ownership*) It is likely that these articles confused the gift of the Clubhouse with a gift of land. The City of Miami employed the services of Langford and Moreau of Chicago to revamp the layout into an 18-hole golf course at a cost of approximately \$105,000. Miami Springs Golf Course became Dade County's first municipal golf course.

ARCHEOLOGY

The water wells in use by the City of Miami were too close to Biscayne Bay and experiencing salt-water intrusion. In order for the City of Miami to continue to grow a potable water supply was needed. The essential fresh water was found on the Miami Springs Golf Course property.



On February 25, 1925 Curtiss-Bright Company deeded the water rights on the golf course to the City of Miami. The Curtiss-Bright Company also deeded the easements to lay wooden aqueducts (still under golf course) down Curtiss Parkway to the Hialeah, "Preston Water Treatment Plant". The freshwater wells found on the golf course provided the first organized water supply system for the City of Miami before that residents relied on individual wells.



ABOVE:

The first clubhouse (photograph above) at the Miami Springs golf course. The clubhouse was opened in 1923 along with the first 9 holes. The photograph was obtained from a Miami Sunday News article dated July 2, 1950.

BELOW:

The second clubhouse was built and paid for by the Curtiss-Bright Company. The clubhouse was turned over to the City of Miami in the spring of 1927. This clubhouse was designed in the theme of Country Club Estates, Pueblo-Revival Style. Picture courtesy of Wally Clark.



In July of 1955 the City of Miami burned down the Club House building in a fire drill, claiming the building was an unsafe structure.



ABOVE:

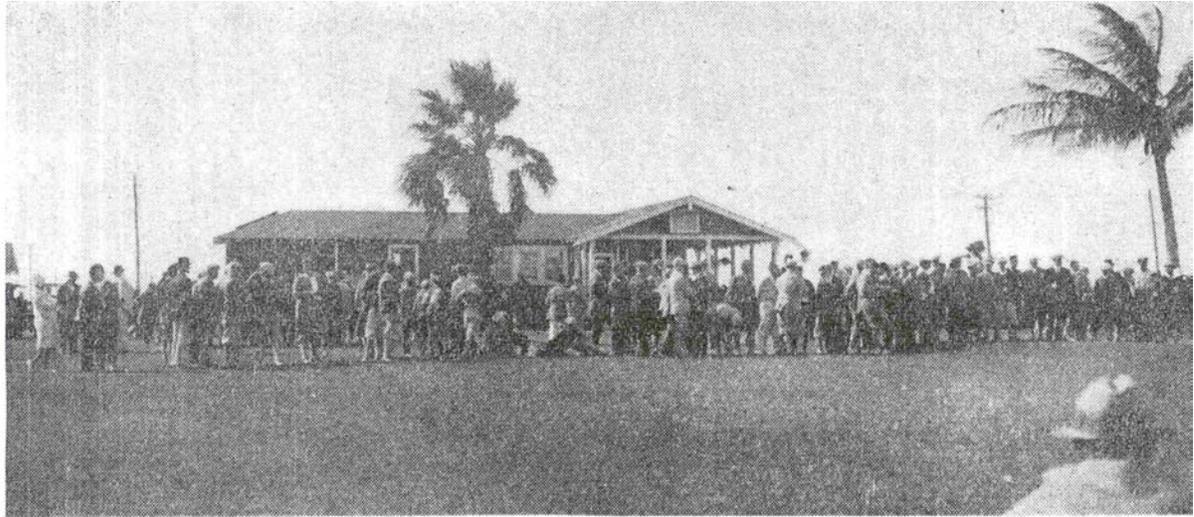
Fire Department in action, burning down the Miami Springs Country Club Building. Pictures from the Miami Herald July 17 1955, courtesy of Miami Dade Public Library.



ABOVE:

Ladies auxiliary serves coffee to crowd gathered to witness to burning of the Club House. Photograph courtesy of Wally Clark.

PGA EVENTS



AS FIRST TEE AND CLUBHOUSE LOOKED WHEN MIAMI OPEN WAS STARTED IN 1925

ABOVE:

Picture from Miami Daily News article dated July 6, 1952. Courtesy of Florida Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

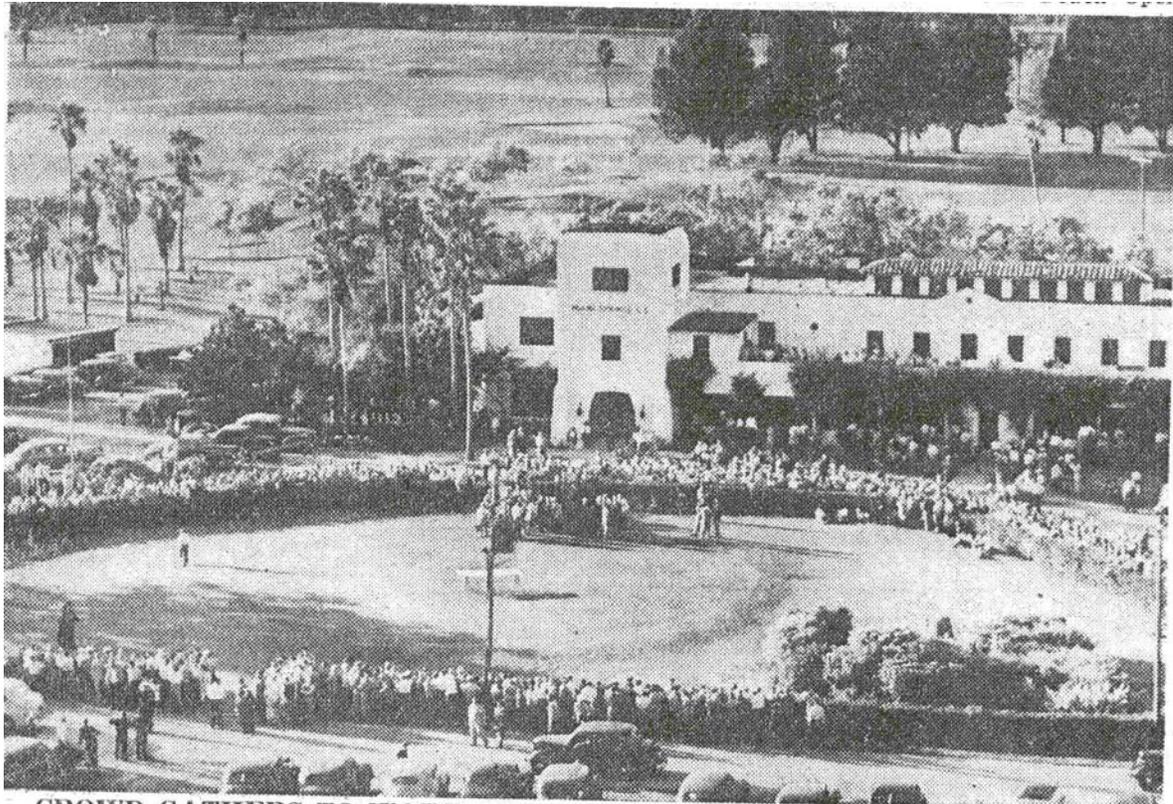
The first pro was Walter Andrews, and after him came Chick Nelson. In January 1925, after the course had been opened for play only several months, the Miami Coconuts Golf Committee along with Frank Wharton, City Manager, as chairman, got the City of Miami to post \$3,000 in total purse money for a Miami Open. The last Miami Open played December 8 -11, 1955 had a total purse of \$12,500 and approximately 25,000 spectators. The City of Miami reported that they had made over \$20,000 per year on the tournament the last 5 to 7 years that the Miami Open was played.

The field at the first Miami held in January of 1925 consisted of Cyril Walker, National Open Champion, Walter Hagen, Long Jim Barnes, Bob McDonald, Jock Hutchinson, Willie MacFarlane, Tommy Armour, Bobby Cruickshank, Tom Kerrigan, Willie Klein, Bill Mehlhorn, Johnny Farrell, John Golden, Leo Diegel, Mike Brady, Freddy McLeod, Gene Sarazen and a score of others. British Open Champion Abe Mitchell led the tournament from wire to wire and took home the \$600 first prize money. The Miami Open was not a sanctioned PGA event until 1945.

The Miami Open was nationally renowned as the official kick off tournament of the winter golf season.

BELOW:

Picture of Miami Open 1951 from Miami News article July 7, 1952. Courtesy of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.



CROWD GATHERS TO WATCH OPEN PRIZE PRESENTATION IN 1951

After winning the amateur title Arnold Palmer's first effort as a pro golfer was at the Miami Open, 1954. He failed to survive the 36-hole cut, but he went on to win 92 tournaments, 61 of them on PGA tours.

The Miami Springs Golf Club also held the Miami Four Ball PGA sponsored event for several years. Byron Nelson a golf legend has the record of winning 11 straight tournaments. The fourth win during his incredible streak of 11 victories was the Miami Four-Ball Tournament held at the Miami Springs Golf Club in 1945.

MIAMI OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS

YEAR	CHAMPION	SCORE	BEST KNOWN FOR:
1925	Abe Mitchell	296	British Open Champion
1926	Willie Klein	289	The Blond Boy Pro at La Gorce on Miami Beach
1927	Gene Sarazen	296	Hall of Fame, Put the Masters on the international map
1928	Gene Sarazen	299	Inventor of the “Sand Wedge”
1929	Gene Sarazen	294	The squire from Connecticut, wore knickers
1930	Gene Sarazen	300	Has won 4 of the worlds major titles
1931	Joe Turnesa	294	Family of 7 golfers, 6 Pros. 1920’s & 30’s Champion
1932	Tommy Armour	285	Won US Open in 1927. Played in 1 st Miami Open 1925
1933	Johnny Revolta	278	Said Miami Springs Course & Clubhouse finest in country
1934	Ralph Stonehouse	279	One stroke over Jimmy Revolta’s record
1935	Tommy Armour	281	The “Silver Scott”, Dressed flamboyantly
1936	Willie Klein	272	Dark horse - beat the cream of the golf world
1937	Ray Mangrum	277	“The human one iron”, Brother Lloyd in Hall of Fame
1938	(Dec) Sam Snead	267	1938 Leading money winner – Snead won over \$20,000
1938	(Jan) Jug McSpaden	275	Gold Dust Twins with Byron Nelson
1939	Sam Snead	271	Sweet Swing was so elegant crowds would follow him
1940	Byron Nelson	271	Went on to win 11 straight tournaments (Gold Coast Twins)
1941	Byron Nelson		1937 Masters Champion, World’s greatest Iron Play
1942	Jeb ‘Jug’ McSpaden		Winnings were mostly War Bonds
1943	Steve Warga	280	Local Miami Springs boy , worked National Airlines
1944	Dutch Harrison	274	The Arkansas Traveler. Hustler
1945	Henry Picard	280	“The Chocolate Kid” from Hershey, PA. beat defending champ
1946	Sam Snead	274	Back from the Navy beat favored Lord Byron
1947	Jimmy Demaret	267	Flashy Dresser friends with Ben Hogan
1948	Frank Stranahan	270	Millionaire armature–father owned Champion Spark Plug
1949	Fred Haas, Jr.	264	Won in play off against Bob Hamilton
1950	Sam Snead	267	First 9 holes he is behind, last 9 holes a record setting 29
1951	Sam Snead	268	Tied with Tommy Bolt until final round; 13,000 fans cheer
1952	Jack Burke, Jr.	273	Tie with Dick Meyer – 1 st Sudden death playoff in Open
1953	Doug Ford	272	1 st tournament he ever won – One of world’s best putters
1954	Bob Rosburg	273	PGA Champion went on the be an announcer for 35 years
1955	Sam Snead (54 Hole)	201	Sudden death playoff with Tommy Bolt, Rain Day 54 holes

The final Miami Open was played in 1955. The City of Miami refused to fund the event in 1956 when the PGA started requiring a \$15,000 purse. In 1955 Miami Springs Golf and Country Club 30 years of being the site of the Open was the longest consecutive years for the tour.



LEFT:

Picture of Gene Sarazen, November 13, 1923 at Miami Hia-le-ah Golf Club, from the Claude C. Matlack Collection. Courtesy of the Historical Museum of South Florida.

RIGHT:

Picture from Sam Snead's autobiography, Slamming Sam, page 137.

The Major League Baseball Players Golf Tournaments

Art Bruns, who ran King Arthur's Court and the Carriage Club, had a talent for attracting the rich and famous. Arthur Godfrey, Mayor Dick Clark, all seven of the Mercury 7 astronauts, and local John Stadnik were members of the Carriage Club. Gus Grissom spent the night across from the villa the night before his fatal flight. Errol Flynn was among those who came for dinner. Though his connections Art Bruns was instrumental in bringing in bringing Major League Baseball players to Miami Springs for a golf tournament.

From 1956 to 1967 major league Baseball held a yearly golf tournament at the Miami Springs golf course. Baseball greats such as Whitey Ford, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Dan Drysdale and Al Lopez participated both in the Golf Tournaments and in the nightlife of the Carriage Club. In the mid 1960's the National League held a pro-am tournament at the course.



ABOVE:

Mickey Mantle, Don Drysdale, Whitey Ford, Tom Carvel, Jim Cernigia, Bob Strale, and Art Bruns at Miami Springs Golf & Country Club Clubhouse 1967. Photograph compliments of Charlie Matthews.

Famous Players at the Major League Baseball Players Golf Tournaments

Major League Division

Yogi Berra, NY Yankees
Ralph Terry, NY Yankees
Mickey Mantle, NY Yankees
Whitey Ford, NY Yankees
Johnny Mize, NY Yankees
Mayo Smith, NY Yankees
Billy Martin, NY Yankees
Al Lopez, Chi. White Sox
Bob Shaw, Chi. White Sox
Jackie Robinson, Dodgers
Ralph Plumlee, Jr., Dodgers
Roger Craig, Los Angeles
Leo Tate, St. Louis
Darrell Johnson, St. Louis
Solly Hermus, Saint Louis
Harvey Walker, Saint Louis
Clem Labine, Pittsburgh
Virgil Trucks, Pittsburgh
Bob Herman, Red Sox

Jim Busby, Baltimore
Paul Richards, Baltimore
A. Pearson, Baltimore
Alvin Dark, San Francisco
Jin Davenport, San Francisco
Harvey Kuenn, San Francisco
Bob Schmidt, San Francisco
Joe Gordon, Kansas City
Walter, Beck, Kansas City
Charles Dressen, Milwaukee
Mel Roach, Milwaukee
Don, Bessent, Dodgers
Clem Labine, Dodgers
Jim Bunning, Detroit
Don Zimmer, Dodgers
Don Drysdale, Dodgers
Hoyt Wilhelm, Baltimore
Tom Sturdivant, Washington
Rollie Hemsley, Washington

Peanuts Lowery, Philadelphia
John Gray, Philadelphia
Gene Mauch, Philadelphia
John Hearn, Philadelphia
Robin Roberts, Philadelphia
Lee Walls, Philadelphia
Jul' Morgan, Philadelphia
Al Vincent, Philadelphia
H. Anderson, Philadelphia
Alvin Dark, Philadelphia
Paul Waner, Philadelphia
Jim Hearn, Philadelphia
Johnny Temple, Cleveland Indians
F. Hutch'son, Cincinnati
Gene Freese, Cincinnati
Eddie Kasko, Cincinnati
Harry Anderson, Cincinnati

Radio & TV Division

L. Fonseca, Movie Director
Frank Wilcox, WTVJ
Chuck Zink, WTVJ
Bill Cabana, WTVJ
Bernie Rosen, WTVJ

Executive Division

Julian Morgan, Cincinnati
Johnny Dell, Cincinnati
John Bulk, St. Louis Cardinals
Bill McDonald, Marlins

Press Division

J. Underwood, Miami Herald
Ray Crawford, Miami Herald
Ed Pierce, Miami News
Nick Kenny, NY Mirror
Francis Stan, Washington Star
Johnny Wilson, Miami News

Guest Division

Art Bruns
Charlie Matthews
Tom Carvel
William Kennedy
Ralph Stevens
Charles Jenkins
Dr. Jim James
Leo Adeeb
Sol Palma
Gene Marks
Jim Cerniglia
Dennis James

THE NORTH-SOUTH TOURNAMENTS

After World War II black golfers, especially returning servicemen, had a pent-up desire for additional opportunities to play golf. The few segregated municipal courses and even fewer privately owned black golf courses were insufficient to meet the needs of this new market.

Ray Mitchell, founder of the Famous Golf School of Harlem, came to the realization that a mid-winter tournament would be welcomed and that Florida was admirably suited for such an event.

The North-South Tournaments 1953 to 1989 were the biggest black sponsored competition in the nation. They were not only important golf events, they were enormously important social affairs. Over the years they attracted top pro golfers such as Ted Rhodes, Charlie Sifford, Jim Dent, Joe Roach and Althea Gibson. Well-known amateurs included Joe Louis and Ann Gregory and Jackie Robinson. Entertainers, athletes and businessmen came to see and be seen. It was not unusual for as many as 300 businessmen and professionals to attend the event, with friends and families bringing 2,000 visitors to Miami. 1954 and ? 1953 (Conflicting references) the event was held in Jacksonville. The North-South tournament quickly out grew the Jacksonville facilities and moved to Miami Springs Golf Course in 1955. Ray Mitchell's North-South Tournaments must be regarded as a vital historic legacy and important subtext to the fight for desegregation.



ABOVE:

Jackie Robinson, and Althea Gibson, Compare scores while competing in the 1962 North-South Golf Tournament at Miami Springs Golf Course. Picture from book Forbidden Fairways. Credit: Bettmann Archives

Jackie Robinson commented in the New York Post in 1960 that he was pleased that there had been no racial restrictions in the years he had attended the Baseball Players Tournaments at Miami Springs Golf Course in contrast to what he had encountered at many Northern Courses. He also expressed the hope that more cities would follow Miami's example and open their doors for all golfers to participate so that the nation could become "a truly democratic society."

FAMOUS PLAYERS

Jackie Robinson – The baseball player who broke the color barrier.

Ted Rhodes "Rags" – Joe Louis' personnel golf instructor and playing partner

Joe Louis – Former Heavyweight Boxing Champion, With help from Walter Winchell
Instrumental in changing PGA's discriminatory practices

Jim Dent – Won the Walt Disney Open in 1972 & Bank of Boston Classic in 1996
Georgia Golf Hall of Fame in 1994

Lee Elder – Captain of the Army Golf Team, Won N-S Tournament in 1964

Charlie Sifford – PGA Touring Pro, Won N-S Tournament in 1957

First African American to win a PGA Tour event (Hartford Open)

Pete Brown – Won Negro National Open 1961 & 1963

Bill Spiller – PGA ruled he was ineligible to play in the 1952 San Diego Open because of race

Cliff Harrington – Won Negro National Open in 1961 & 1962 & the N-S Tournament in 1959

Joe Roach Delancey – From Coconut Grove, Won the N-S Tournament 4 years straight 1957-1960.

Alfred "Tub" Holmes – Barred from National Athletic Assoc. Tournament because of race.

Earl Jackson – New York Policeman, Owner and operator of "International Golf Tours"

Hank Thompson – of the New York Giants

The North-South Tournaments never discriminated based on race or gender.

WOMEN DIVISION

Althea Gibson – Tennis Pro turned Golf Pro, Won N-S Tournament in 1963, 1964, 1965

First African American member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association

Ann Gregory – Housewife who won seven tournaments in her first year of play

Renee Powel – The second black female to qualify for the LPGA tour

Liz Wright Mattie Armstrong Maxine Mears Mrs. Mary Murphy

Dinah Washington Myrtle Sifford Mary Minor Mrs. Sam Sims

WHITE GOLFERS

Bruce Fleisher – From North Miami Beach, Won U.S. Amateur in 1968

Gilbert Gibby – Won 1988 Tennessee Open and 1991 Southern Bell Classic

TROPHIES GIVEN BY

Nat "King" Cole

Sugar Ray Robinson

Jackie Robinson

Joe Louis

Sarah Vaughn

George Treadwell

Roy Campanella

Moss Kendrix

THE FIGHT FOR DESEGREGATION

On Monday, April 11, 1949 a group of five black golfers appeared at the Miami Springs Golf Course and demanded to play. The group consisted of the group's attorney G. E. Graves, Jr., Esq., Sandy Green, Thomas Rice, Elwyn Barnes and J. D. Johnson. The City of Miami Attorney, J. W. Watson, advised course manager H. H. Arnold that, "no law prevents them from playing".

The blacks were trying to make a point that the City of Miami should construct a new municipal course for blacks. A nine-hole course had been planned on the sewage disposal site located between LeJeune Road and Douglas Road. The blacks were not allowed to play that day because they did not have separate golf clubs. The City of Miami Manager advised that if black golfers came and wanted to play they could at any time as long as they each had a set of clubs and abided by all of the other club rules.

On April 18, 1949 golf course manager H. H. Arnold advised City of Miami Manager O. P. Hart that the ruling to allow the blacks to play on the course had caused a fifty-percent decrease on the number of rounds played per day. He further explained that the white golfers were refusing to play with blacks.

On April 19, 1949 according to newspaper accounts the City of Miami might set aside one day a week for black golfers. This was due to the decrease in rounds of play after the city began allowing blacks to play. The other municipal courses in the Miami area, which were Bayshore in the City of Miami Beach, the Granada and the Biltmore in the City of Coral Gables did not allow blacks to play.

On April 19, 1949 the City of Miami commission passed an ordinance limiting the blacks to playing on Mondays only. No other municipal golf course in the State was allowing blacks to play. When the same black golfers requested to play at the other three municipal golf courses the answer from all of the city officials was that the question would go under advisement. Therefore the golfers would not be officially denied access, but they were not granted permission either.

In June 1949 a *mandamus suit* was brought against the City of Miami by golfer Joseph Rice. Attorney's John S. Johnson and G. E. Graves represented Mr. Rice in the suit. Mr. Rice stated that he had sought to purchase a ticket to play a round of golf on Wednesday, April 27, 1949 and was refused, "because he is a colored

man or descendant of the African American race and for no other reason". He added in his suit that he and other blacks are entitled to use the course without any "capricious and arbitrary exclusion".

The City of Miami in its reply to the suit stated, "There is a general policy of segregation of races throughout this state and city." Dade County Circuit Judge Charles A. Carroll ruled on Friday, July 22, 1949 that the City of Miami has the right to bar blacks on municipal golf courses on specified days. In the ruling Judge Carroll stated,

"A requirement that some use of the course should be provided (for Negroes), is by no means the same thing as a right or privilege for its use at any and all times every day".

Joseph Rice and his attorneys appealed the courts decision to the Florida Supreme Court. In February 1950 the Florida State Supreme Court heard both sides. Attorneys John D. Johnson and G. E. Graves, Jr. stated that the attack was not to break down the state's social system. They admitted that there would always be a segregation of the races in Florida. Their argument was that one day a week was not sufficient for black golfers and Mondays is the most undesirable day for golf.

City attorney J. W. Watson, Jr. and Assistant John D. Marsh argued that black use of the course was an economic question. Watson advised that white golfers had threatened to quit playing the course and that would cause an economic hardship to the City of Miami.

The ruling by the Florida Supreme Court was handed down on March 23, 1950. The court ruled in favor of the City of Miami. Florida Supreme Court Justice Roy Chapman stated,

"It cannot be overlooked that persons of the same tastes and desires, whether white or black, usually associate together to enjoy themselves to best advantage. People generally move in the circles in which they are likely to be suited or matched. The reason for the rule was to prevent friction between the white and Negro golfers on the course. Courts are powerless to eradicate social instincts or to abolish distinctions based on physical differences. "

Attorneys Graves and Johnson appealed the decision handed down by the Florida Supreme Court to the United States Supreme Court. After hearing the case the

United States Supreme Court Justices on Monday, October 16, 1950 handed down a unanimous decision vacating the Florida Supreme Court's decision. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Florida Supreme Court. The 50 word decision by the high court asked the Florida Supreme Court for reconsideration in light of the Negro Education Cases which had been decided by the Supreme Court in 1949. In those cases the first was to require the State of Texas to admit Negroes to the University of Texas Law School and the second, case was for the University of Oklahoma to give unrestricted facilities to Negro, students.

On August 31st 1951, in a four to two ruling, the Florida Supreme Court upheld its original position affirming the segregation policy established by the City of Miami. The opinion was written by Associate Justice Hugh Taylor and concurred by Justices Roy Chapman, Elwyn Thomas and Alto Adams. Chief Justice Glenn Terrell and Justice Frank Hobson dissented with Justice B. K. Roberts not participating. Associate Justice Taylor wrote that the court found no, "unreasonable and unjust discrimination which deprives him of his constitutional rights". Associate Justice Taylor stated that the difference between this case and the two University cases reviewed by the United States Supreme Court was that playing golf and seeking an education are two entirely different things. Associate Justice Taylor wrote;

"This is quite different from an educational institution where the purpose is to develop the capacities of an individual to practice a profession. In the case before us there is no question of the equality of the physical facilities offered petitioner Rice with which he may enjoy his constitutional right to engage in the game of golf upon public property".

The Supreme Court Justices did not overturn the second State ruling, they hinted in their ruling that the petitioner, Joseph Rice, attempt a different approach. The court stated that a declaratory judgment could be sought to determine a reasonable allocation of time.

In 1957 Rice moved to Stamford Connecticut. He stated "(Authorities) say one day for blacks and six days for whites is equal. We told them "Well then, we do not want to be equal was want to be the same." But times were changing rich black tourists were coming to play and they were not satisfied with the Monday only rule; the pressure was mounting. In 1957 Attorney Grattan Graves, who was also suing to end segregated bus seats, filed another lawsuit to quash the Monday only rule. As a result of the lawsuit, golf course officials relented and dropped the Monday only rule.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE GOLF COURSE

In the first 27 years of existence the golf course lost money. From 1940 to 1947 the course showed revenues of \$303,813 and expenses of \$ 285,837 for a profit of \$17,976. The green fees for a round of golf was \$1.00 until September 25, 1946 when the City of Miami Springs began collecting a head tax of ten cents.

A boycott of the course ensued by golfers, including Miami Springs residents. City of Miami Commissioners became irate over the "gouge" tax and asked City Attorney John W. Watson for a ruling if one municipality could tax another.

Mayor Harry Miller of Miami Springs stated that the action had been passed during a City of Miami Springs Council meeting on September 9, 1946, but the collection of the tax was withheld until he had returned from a trip and signed the measure. Mayor Miller stated, "The golf course is exempt from taxes, the head tax is necessary because we need money badly. Golfers coming to and from the golf course contribute to the wear and tear on our streets". The tax would bring the City of Miami Springs approximately \$5,000 in annual revenue.

The battle between the City of Miami and Miami Springs escalated in December 19, 1947 when the City of Miami increased the fee on the course to \$2.00 per round. The City of Miami threatened to stop collecting the head fee. Miami Springs Mayor Harry Miller stated, "we'll stand pat on our head tax". The City of Miami was threatening to take Miami Springs to court over the tax.

Mayor Miller stated, "We feel we are entitled to the tax. We render services to the City of Miami. We police the area, and we've had troubles with the caddies there. During the Miami Open Golf Tournaments we provided extra police services. We let the tournament committee have one of our part-time policemen to handle the caddies. The tournament committee refused to pay him so the City of Miami Springs had to compensate him."

On January 26, 1948 the city council of Miami Springs was officially informed that the City of Miami was no longer going to collect the head tax.. During the time the head tax was collected the City of Miami Springs collected approximately \$9,000.

The City of Miami Springs attempted on July 25, 1949 to re-impose the controversial head tax on players using the Miami-owned golf course. The attempt was stymied when Council President C. J. Roberts announced that the

next item on the agenda was a resolution to place the property on the towns tax roles and reinstate the head tax. Three council members walked out of the meeting and the meeting was adjourned for the lack of a quorum.

The City of Miami Manager R. G. Danner made the decision to stop collecting the head tax due to the fact that the courts had not allowed the City of Miami to impose a similar tax on hotels and nightclubs within city limits. Manager Danners also advised that there was a Supreme Court decision, which would outlaw the, City of Miami Springs from placing of the golf course on the ad valorem tax roles.

In 1950 the Miami Springs golf course again began receiving notoriety when discussions began on replacing the pueblo-revival style clubhouse built and donated by the Curtiss-Bright Company to the City of Miami. The City of Miami allocated \$162,000 for the project of replacing the clubhouse. In 1950 the number of rounds played per year had increased to approximately 70,000 and the daily fee was \$1.50. During this time the City of Miami used inmates from the jail to work on the golf course. Thus the City had a supply of free labor.

The Pueblo-revival style clubhouse was not demolished until June 10, 1955 when the fire department held a controlled burn at the clubhouse. The structure was in such a state of disrepair and termite infested that the second floor could not be used. The new clubhouse was built by Kinlow Construction Company at a cost of approximately \$167,000 and was opened on October 31, 1955 in time for the Miami Open of 1955.

On several occasions in the 1950's the City of Miami received offers and speculated about selling the course. In 1955 Glenn Hilburn offered the City of Miami \$500,000 to purchase the course to build around the perimeter of the course and place a new \$100,000 clubhouse on the golf course. The City of Miami rejected that offer.

On March 30, 1969 it was reported in the Miami Herald that Miami Springs Mayor John A. Cavalier sat in the golf cart as City of Miami Mayor Stephen P. Clark played a round of golf. Then Mayor Cavalier told the newspaper reporter that the City of Miami Springs had offered \$1,500,000 to the City of Miami for the golf course, but the City of Miami had not responded. He stated that he took a ride with Mayor Clark to try to get a response. Mayor Cavalier even spoke about placing the property on the tax rolls since it was City of Miami property, but it was within the City of Miami Springs city limits.

In the mid 1980's Metropolitan Dade County under Mayor Stephen P. Clark attempted to purchase the Miami Springs Golf Course from the City of Miami. Mayor Clark stated that he knew how historic the course was and he would like to see it restored along with and to the same condition as the Key Biscayne golf course. The Dade County Commission approved the item but negotiations with the City of Miami broke down when the City of Miami asked for much more than the course was worth. Mayor Clark's plan did not become reality and the Miami Springs golf course remained in obscurity and poor playing condition.

In the mid 1950's the City of Miami had built another municipal golf course, Mel Reese, on the sewage disposal site between Douglas and LeJeune Roads. Miami Springs Golf Course fell into relative neglect because the City preferred to support the course that was within its city limits. With the ownership of two courses the City of Miami fell into financial troubles and started looking to sell some of their properties including the Miami Springs Golf Course. The City of Miami sent out 200 requests for bids in July 1997. The lone bid received was from the City of Miami Springs for the amount of \$3,090,000. Two- appraisals done on the golf course determined a value of \$2,000,000 and \$2,900,000. The ownership of the course was transferred from the City of Miami to the City of Miami Springs on October 23, 1997. The residents of the City of Miami Springs, in a special election conducted on June 17, 1997 approved the purchase of the golf course and the issuance of General Obligation Bonds by the City of Miami Springs.

In 2004, six year after Miami Springs purchased the Golf Course, Charter amendment No. 1 was placed on the ballot. The amendment stated:

No portion of the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club Property, which is more particularly described in the Official Records Book 17843, Pages 4410-4415 of the Miami-Dade County Public records, shall be leased for any single period in excess of five (5) years, re-zoned, sold, or otherwise conveyed, without first being approved and authorized by a majority of the qualified City electors voting in an election to consider any such actions?

The amendment passed by a yes vote of 78.6%. Demonstrating the deep commitment of the community to protect the Golf Course.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Glenn Hammond Curtiss world-renowned inventor, aviator, engineer and founder of Hialeah, Opa-Locka, and Miami Springs, Florida designed the Miami Springs Golf Course and the 1925 Pueblo Revival Style Country Club.

Early Miami pioneer Everest Sewell (later Miami's Mayor) persuaded Glenn Curtiss to establish a flying school in Miami. In 1920 when Curtiss began looking to move his flying school further west due to population growth he contacted James Bright. The "Florida land boom" of the 1920's was in full swing. The land sold by Curtiss-Bright Company became the towns of Hialeah (incorporated in 1925), Country Club Estates (incorporated in 1926), and Opa-Locka (incorporated in 1926). Inspired by George Merick's Mediterranean Style theme community. Curtiss chose the "Moorish theme" for his Opa-Locka Community and the "Pueblo-Mission" Theme for the development of Country Club Estates, where he also chose to make his home.

The Curtiss-Bright Company built the golf course and parkway prior to any other structure in the development. The open space created by the golf course, parkway and circle are features that remain the heart of the community. The master plan by the Curtiss-Bright Company shows that this was the backbone of their planned development of Country Club Estates, now known as Miami Springs. A June 1, 1941 article by Tom Q. Smith put it this way: "Miami Springs---The Town A Modern Golf Course Built." "Many a new Florida town has struggled with great plans for a golf course, but the greater Miami area has a town that was actually built around a golf course." Though it sounds like putting the cart before the horse, the town was actually predicated on the construction of the Golf Course, now the Miami municipal links."

John Reid founded the first Golf Club in the United States in 1840. In the 1920's Golf was just beginning to become a professional sport. Miami Springs Golf Course was fortunate to have been built at the time when golf in America was coming of age. This site hosted several historic golf events. Home of the Miami Open 1925-1955, PGA sanctioned 1945-1955, Home of the Major League Baseball Players Golf Tournament 1956-1967. Home of the North-South Tournament 1955-1989.

When President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9980 and 9981 on July 1948, which desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces and the Civil Service, he set into motion a chain of events that would have a profound effect on race relations.

Black Golfers became members of military teams and participated in military tournaments. This was the first opportunity for many professional black golfers to match their skills against their white counterparts and enabled blacks to learn the game of golf and improve their skills. Post War these golfers were on the forefront of the fight for desegregation. Miami Spring was the first Golf Course in Florida to allow black golfers due to the effort of Thomas Rice, Elwyn Barnes, John Johnson, Sandy Green, and Joe Delancey, AKA Joe Roach.

The fresh water supply found under Miami Springs Golf Course was a crucial element in allowing the City Of Miami to develop in the 1920's and 1930's. The original wooden aqueducts still exist under the golf course.

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Designation will have the effect of requiring
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